

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OPORTO 0046

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, MILI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF EANES

REF: LISBON 0525

1. GEN RAMALHO EANES MADE THREE-DAY TOUR OF OPORTO ARMY INSTALLATIONS JAN 22-24 IN HIS FIRST VISIT TO NORTHERN MILITARY REGION (RMN) AS ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. EANES ALSO CALLED ON INFANTRY REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AT BRAGA AND VILA REAL AND VISITED LAMEGO TRAINING CENTER.

2. IN ADDITION TO ANNOUNCING ARMY CUTBACK (REFTEL), EANES STATED THAT DEBT OF GRATITUDE WHICH THE ARMY OWED "MAJOR" OTELO DE CARVALHO SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE FACT THAT OTELO WAS ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS PRINCIPALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR SITUATION LEADING TO NOV 25 COUP ATTEMPT. EANES HIGHLY PRAISED INFLUENCE OF RMN COMMANDER BG VELOSO AND MILITARY "WAY OF LIFE" (READ ORDER AND DISCIPLINE) IN NORTHERN UNITS. DURING ROUTINE VISIT AT OPORTO ARTILLERY COMMAND (RASP), EANES TOLD REPORTERS THAT ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF DRIVER TRAINING FACILITY (CICAP) WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF RMN COMMANDER.

3. EANES WAS ALSO QUESTIONED BY JOURNALISTS REGARDING POSSIBLE CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT AND MILITARY MEASURES TO HALT BOMBING ASSAULTS. EANES TERMED HIS CANDIDACY "PURE SPECULATION AND
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OUT OF REASON". HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT BOMBING PROBLEM

IN THE NORTH COULD BE RESOLVED. VELOSO ADDED THAT TACTICS WERE BEING PLANNED TO END THE WAVE OF BOMBINGS.

4. COMMENT: CIVILIAN AND MILITARY POLICE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN SERIES OF PRE-DAWN CAR CHECKS ON SOME MAJOR INCOMING ARTERIES AND SWEEPS IN DOWNTOWN AREA. OPORTO HAS BEEN FREE OF BOMBS FOR OVER A WEEK. BARELY THREE MONTHS AGO RASP/CICAP WERE FOCUS POINTS OF OPEN MILITARY INSURRECTION. ONLY RECENTLY VELOSO REMARKED CONFIDENTIALLY TO CONSULATE SOURCE THAT UPON HIS ARRIVAL AS RMN COMMANDER IN SEPTEMBER HE COULD COUNT ON ABSOLUTE LOYALTY OF LESS THAN 100 MEN IN OPORTO. IN RETROSPECT CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN RE-ESTABLISHING MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND ORDER.
PENNER

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